Karwar port as a general customs port, and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof indicating the steps taken in that direction?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) (a) and (b) Karwar Port in the State of Karnataka has already been declared as a Customs port for import and export of selected commodities A request had been received from the Karnataka Government for allowing imports and exports for additional commodities through Karwar port This has been examined and a decision has been taken to allow more items which are of immediate need to the trade and industry

Profit/Loss accounts of Nationalised Banks

51. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some nationalised banks have shown losses in their balance sheets this year;

(b) if so, which are the banks which have shown losses in their balance sheets and which are the banks which have made profits and what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to improve the functioning of the nationalised banks?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) As per the published annual accounts of the nationalised banks for the year ending 31st March, 1990, New Bank of India and UCO Bank have shown losses aggregating to Rs 9,89 crores and Rs 54 59 crores respectively The other 18 nationalised banks have earned profits aggregating to Rs 249 60 crores during the year ending 31st March, 1990

(c) The financial position and performance of the nationalised banks is reviewed by the Government and Reserve Bank of India on an on going basis Government and Reserve Bank of India have taken a series of measures to improve the performance and profitability of the public sector banks These include augmentation of their capital enhancement of service charges, nationalisation of interest rates structure and levy of commitment charges on unutilised portion of operating limits Banks have also been advised to take measures to control expenditure on consumption of petrol, publicity etc, draw up action plans to improve their operational efficiency and take other measures to streng then their viability and profitability by means of effective business planning and development Banks have also been advised by the Reserve Bank of India to initiate action against the officials found to be involved in cases of frauds

Steps taken to increase the exports

52 SHRI V NARAYANASAMY
SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the present oil crisis will push the country's import bill to more than Rs 12,000 crores this year, and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to boost exports to meet the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDAS PATEL) (a) According to current estimates. the import of crude oil and pet-

roleum products amounted to Rs 6420 crores during April-Nov, 1990 In view of the fluctuating prices of crude oil in the international market, it is difficult to precisely estimate the country's import bill for the financial year 1990-91 at this stage

(b) The Key elements of the export strategy are availability of raw materials, components and capital goods at near world prices, Strengthening export incentive Schemes, improvement in the infrastructural facilities and efficient demand management policies Simultaneously, efforts are also being made to increase exports to hard currency areas and to cut export costs

Setting up a joint working group on project exports

53 SHRI V NARAYANASAMY Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Joint Working Group on project exports to look into the policy and procedure related problems of the Indian project exports,

(b) whether it is a fact that India's share in the world project market is less than 1 per cent, and

(c) which are the areas that India has concentrated in the fields of project exports?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDAS PATEL) (a) A Working Group comprising representatives of the Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Finance, Reserve Bank of India, Export Credit Guarantee Corporation Limited, Exporters, Commercial Bankers with EXIM Bank as focal point already exists for clearance of bids for Indian project exports, wherein funded/non-funded facilities are required for execution of projects Also, a High Level Project Promotion Committee for Tracking and Monitoring of overseas projects funded by the Multilateral Agencies has been set up

(b) Yes, Sir

(c) Project exports from India are in the field of civil construction projects, industrial turnkey projects, consultancy and operations/maintenance contracts

Vacancies in J & K High Court

54 SHRI SHABBIR AHMAD SALARIA Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state

(a) for how long the J & K High Court has been working below the sanctioned strength, and

(b) what are the category-wise arrears of cases in J & K High Court at present?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (DR SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY) (a) The Jammu and Kashmir High Court has functioned below its sanctioned strength of 7 permanent Judges from 3-8-89 till 11-11-90; thereafter, the High Court has been functioning with its full sanctioned strength

(b) As on 31-12-89, the Jammu and Kashmir High Court had 38518 Civil and 3581 Criminal cases pending before it

Opinion of ASSOCHEIM on levy of consignment tax

55. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA· Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Asociated Chambers of Commerce and Industry has urged Government not to levy consignment tax on inter-State movement of goods in the interest of country's economy,

(b) if so, what is Central Government's reaction thereto,